

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 115.0001-00000  
Customer No. 22882  
Express Mail Label No. ET747368622US

JC903 U.S. PRO  
10/047122  
01/15/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
John I. Shipp et al. )  
Serial No.: N/A )  
Filed: January 15, 2002 )  
For: INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS )  
FOR USE IN LAPAROSCOPIC )  
SURGERY )

Group Art Unit: N/A  
Examiner: N/A

TH 702  
5-21 Prior Art

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

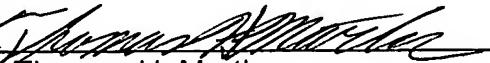
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1068.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: January 15, 2002

By:   
Thomas H. Martin  
Registration No. 34,383  
Attorney for Applicants

14500 Avion Parkway, Suite 300  
Chantilly, VA 20151-1101  
Telephone: (703) 679-9300  
Facsimile: (703) 679-9303